TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND

ORIGINAL

ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC MEETING

MONTROSE SETTLEMENTS RESTORATION PROGRAM

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005

1901 Spinnaker Drive

Auditorium

Ventura, California



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VENTURA, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005

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MR. BAKER: Okay. We'll go ahead and start. My name is Greg Baker, and I'm with the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program. And I will start by making the introduction.

We have a court reporter here today, and so I've asked that the people who want to make some comments or questions during the public comment section go ahead and fill out a card so we make sure we have everyone's name correctly.

Also here tonight is Annie Little from the program, Dave Witting, and we have Milena Viljoen in the background, and Tim Boyce is a council member. And Julie Yamamoto is here from Department of Fish and Game, and Kate Faulkner is here from National Park Services. Thank you for sitting in this evening.

What we would like to do is, before we get into the questions and comments and things, is to get some background on the restoration plan. So, if you could hold your comments and questions until the end.

(Brief Presentation.)

MR. BAKER: So I think that's it. This is the fourth of our four public meetings, and what I'd like to do is go ahead and move from our presentation part of our meeting to our questions and comments part of the meeting.

I have a couple of cards that I've gotten filled out so far, and for the sake of making a record of this,

I'd like to ask that anyone else beyond these first two people who would like to speak, you know, go ahead and fill out a card.

So I'll go ahead and start with Kristen Lambert.

MS. LAMBERT: Hello, I'm Kristen Lambert, I'm 14 years old, I live in Malibu, and I'm president of Malibu Middle School.

I've seen our national bird once in my life, and that was in Catalina. When I was polling and talking to some people at school, it was estimated that one-third of Malibu Middle School has seen a bald eagle in the wild. And that means that about two-thirds of kids ages 11 to 15 in Malibu have not seen a live bald eagle, and that's America's national bird.

Not only are we preserving bald eagles, we're saving the island foxes, as bald eagles will help in the protection of that, and it's an exceedingly endangered species.

In six hours at school, I collected 221 signatures of students and adults alike all wanting to save these innocent birds.

When I was eight, my family packed up and drove

to Central California for a two-day guided hike in search of bald eagles, and you know what we saw? Quails. 2 I remember the one time I did see a bald eagle, 3 though. That was -- my father and I were kayaking in 4 Catalina harbor, and he grabbed my arm and pointed and 5 said, "There, that is a bald eagle." And sure enough, sitting up on the ledge of the cliff, there it was, the 7 symbol of America. 8 Please, for me, my peers, and my children, 9 continue the funding of this important project. So please, 10 Alternative No. 3. Thank you. 11 MR. BAKER: Thank you very much. Okay. Go ahead, 12 13 Carl. MR. LAMBERT: Well, I'm the proud father of 14 Kristen Lambert, and, you know, my name is Carl Lambert. I 15 live in Malibu. 16 And I am also the president of the Tuna Club 17 Foundation in Catalina, and I am the past director of the 18 NCMC, which is the National Coalition for Marine 19 Conservation. I'm also a member of the Catalina 20 Conservancy, and, you know, I would really like to 21 encourage you to continue with the funding in 22 Santa Catalina. 23 Catalina Island is a magical place where it's a 24 blend of paradise for the wildlife. You've got 42,000 25

acres which were set aside in 1972 never to be touched. 1 Now, it also has a unique component to that conservation 2 bend and that is that over a million visitors a year go to Avalon. And I would venture to say at least another half again as many go to the island and visit by going by boat, 5 they kayak, I've seen people take jet skis over to 6 Catalina. Now, you don't see that in the northern 7 Channel Islands. I love the northern Channel Islands. I dove there. I've fished there. I've been on the shore. 10 beautiful. I've been with my daughter. We went up to 11 Santa Cruz, and we did a kid's weekend on a boat, and then 12 we hiked through Cata- -- Santa Cruz Island, and it's truly 13 magical. I've been on all but the Navy Islands in our 15 chain. And so, you know, I -- I grew up on the 16 East Coast, and I was a member of the Indian Guides with my 17 father. I was Little Eagle Feather, my father was Bald 18 Eagle. Tells you something about my father. But, anyway, 19 you know, I looked on the Appalachian Trail. I looked in 20 the Nukuaeta Islands. 21 I looked all over the place for bald eagles all 22 my life, and it wasn't until the mid to late '80s that I saw my first bald eagle, and it was at Santa Catalina 24 island on the west end. And I can close my eyes, and I can see the bird flying, and it flew around. I saw it land. It was truly magical. I finally got a chance to see it.

And then I can remember another time when I was on a fishing boat and nearby was another sport fishing boat with all these guys that paid 25 bucks for the day to come over to fish on Catalina island, and they're all fishing and somebody drops over an injured mackerel, and it's there, and before that, I also seen another bald eagle, and low and behold -- and other people had seen the eagle -- and, you know, to see one soaring overhead, you know the difference between a bald eagle and a seagull. I mean, they are super impressive.

And there this fish goes, you know, swimming off, and this bald eagle came down, swooped down, grabbed the mackerel, and took off, and flew away. And I can tell you, and I was a couple hundred yards away, the whoops and cries and the hollers from the people that saw that. They were — they put down their fishing rods. They were applauding. It was spectacular.

Then another time, one, as my daughter mentioned, I had the privilege of showing her her first bald eagle.

There he was perched up on a cliff at Cap Harbor. And then another time, I was in Catalina Harbor working on the pins for the white sea bass. They have — the brood stock is there and the hatchery, the fish come in there, and, again,

1 I had the privilege of seeing another bald eagle.

And it must -- it was about a year and a half ago. I was visiting a friend who lives over at Hamilton Cove, and Hamilton Cove, probably not the most beautiful thing in the world, maybe to some, but it's this large condo development on Catalina Island. was -- just before I went down the steps to go toward the unit, I saw couple of people coming down hurriedly from the mountain coming down the street, and they were going, "There's an eagle. There's an eagle."

And we went up, and sure enough, and I've got pictures of this eagle, maybe it was a little bit from afar, I was about 300 yards, but there was a bald eagle on the island. And that is what it's about.

You need to have a little human action, interaction with the eagles, because it's wonderful to introduce them to the northern Channel Islands. And I applaud you for that. I think it's fabulous. And I understand that it might be a little more expensive to do it down in the -- Catalina.

And I really wish you'd put up one of the pictures here that you had earlier of -- that showed the Channel Islands chain, because, if you look at it, most of the DDT went right down near Catalina Island, and Catalina bore the brunt of it.

And so I would submit to you today that

Catalina Island should have a bigger portion, because they

need it. And I -- I agree, you know, it's -- it might be

cheaper up here to do it, but, then again, you don't have

the human interaction. And one of the great things about

being an American is being able to see the national bird.

And I can tell you that a lot of people come to Catalina saying, "Where are the bald eagles? How do I get into the interior to see them?" And, you know, kayakers tell me about them, people talk about them at night, at the nightclubs, anywhere, "I saw an eagle today."

I mean, that is important. That's the good news, you know. The bad news is the crime against humanity that occurred at Montrose. And it was probably either the board that said, "We got to get rid of this stuff." And, you know, it's amazing what you remember when you're a kid.

But in the '60s, I remember seeing a cartoon.

And it's Archie, I'm dating myself. Most of you probably haven't seen the comic strip, Archie. It was in the --well, it was the Washington Star at the time. And it shows, "Well, I found this pad of DDT in my garage. What do I do with it?"

And they said, "Well, we can't put it down the sewer. We can't flush it down the toilet. We can't," you know, "throw it away because it'll ruin the dump. What do

1 | we do with it?"

And finally Archie and the next friend took and encased it in concrete and, you know, put -- made it into a bird bath on top. And it was, you know, that kind of creativity, and, you know, it stuck with me. You know, what is this DDT? And then low and behold I move out to Southern California, and I'm close, you know, very near ground zero of, you know, one of the great natural -- or great disasters. And so I would say that what they did was criminal.

And we have an opportunity. We got a fund, and we have an opportunity to right that wrong. And I think that it is most appropriate to really support the Catalina bald eagle restoration project and recognize the conservancy doesn't just take the eggs from the local eagles, which I understand are defective.

But they release seven -- they've hatched 17 of those eggs. But, additionally, over the last 20 years, the Catalina Island Conservancy has released 80 eagles into the environment. They bring eggs down from San Francisco Zoo and other zoos, and they hatch them here. They give them to the birds, and they are released wild. That's 80 birds for \$200,000 a year?

I mean, if you look at it, that's less than \$50,000 a bird. And, you know, for \$50,000, for the price

of an SUV, you can have a bald eagle freed Catalina where millions of people can see them and have the opportunity to interact with them. And so -- and I don't want to sound like a crackpot or being very extremely cynical, but I see this is about money.

I see the fact that you've got alternative one, two, and three. And looks like you focused on two and three. Two eliminates Catalina Island, and I see, with all due respect, I see a lot of green shirts here, and you guys have the northern Channel Islands. So I can understand the desire to put and reintroduce the birds into Northern Calif- -- in the northern islands.

But also recognize that you've got golden eagles. Golden eagles compete with bald eagles. And one of the nice things about -- another side effect of that competition is that, because the bald eagles are so well entrenched in Catalina Island, they keep the golden eagle out. And by keeping the golden eagle out, that protects the Catalina Island fox.

And the Catalina Island fox is a cute little guy. You see a picture of him right there, behind Greg there, and it is a small little guy, not much bigger than a house cat and prime prey for the larger eagles, for the golden eagles.

And so that's one of the problems that you have

in the Northern Channel Islands is the decimation of the fox by the golden eagles. But if the bald eagles in 2 Catalina can no longer breed, then they will probably 3 leave. And if they leave, the golden eagles come in, the foxes, which is on the federal endangered species list, 5 gets decimated. 6 So I would encourage the people that at the 7 trustee council, and if you could, please, underline this. 8 You have to support version Alternative No. 3 for the preservation of the bald eagle in Catalina for, not just 10 our generation, but the generations to come. Thank you. 11 MR. BAKER: Okay. Thanks, Carl. 12 Do we have any other -- any other questions or 13 14 comments? What we could do is, I'll mention that the public 15 comment period -- the public comments entered into the 16 record, we will be responding to these comments and taking 17 them into consideration and be happy to just go ahead and 18 end the formal meeting. And anyone who wants to talk a 19 little more afterwards, feel free, we'll be here. 20 So thank you all for coming. 21 (At 8:00 p.m. the public meeting concluded.) 22 -000-23 24 25

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MSRP Draft Restoration Plan / EIS / EIR Public Meeting Monday, May 9, 2005 Channel Islands National Park, Ventura, CA

Name	Affiliation
1. JACKUR LANE	U.S. EPA 15 HOUThonne S.F94
2. Boyd GRANT	UPSAC (UNITED PIER \$ Shore Anglers-
3. Sharon Lin	US EPA
4. Julie Yamamoto	CDFG
5. Kate Faulkner	NPS - CINP
6. Jessica Deoley	IW S
7. Carl Hunter	TUNH CLUB
8. Kristen Lambert	Malibu Middle School
9. Lenso Stems	M. A. Fait Eld Mille Demi.
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MSRP Public Meeting Comment/Question Card

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